

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**Thursday, October 8, 2009**

51 N. Street, NE  
Lower Level  
Washington, DC 20002  
6:00pm – 8:00 pm

**Tuesday, October 13, 2009**

441 4<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Old Council Chambers  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor South, Washington, DC 20001  
6:00pm – 8:00 pm

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), Department of Special Education will hold two public hearings to discuss a proposed regulation governing early intervention services for children from birth through two (2) years of age referred to as “Part C Early Intervention Services;” and a proposed policy with regard to the identity of children in the District of Columbia who may be eligible for early intervention services or special education services, referred to as a “Comprehensive Child Find Policy.” The OSSE, as the lead agency for early intervention services, is responsible for a statewide system of coordinated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary, interagency programming that provides appropriate early intervention services to all infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. Additionally, the OSSE is required to ensure that children within the District of Columbia from birth through 21 suspected of needing early intervention or special education and related services are identified, located, and referred for evaluation in a timely manner.

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1. Part C Early Intervention Services, Title 5, Chapter A32 (posted for public comment on Friday, September 18, 2009 and closes on Monday, October 19, 2009):

*The purpose of the District of Columbia’s Part C regulations being proposed in conformance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §1400 et seq. (IDEA) is to establish standards for the operation of the Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Department of Special Education, DC Early Intervention Program (Program), including family eligibility and cost participation for early intervention services based upon the Federal Poverty Guidelines.*

2. Comprehensive Child Find Policy (posted on the OSSE website):

*Child Find is a continuous process of public awareness activities, screening, and evaluation designed to locate, identify, and refer all children with disabilities as early as possible. Child Find targets children ages birth through 2.8 years old in need of early intervention services (Part C); children ages 2.8 through 21 in need of special education and related services (Part B); and their families under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §1400, et seq. (IDEA). Children must meet eligibility criteria according to the IDEA and state guidelines to receive services. The IDEA requires all states and the District of Columbia to have a “comprehensive Child Find system” to assure that all children who are in need of early intervention or special education services are located, identified and referred.*

**Persons wishing to review** these proposals may access them on the OSSE webpage at [www.osse.dc.gov](http://www.osse.dc.gov) under the special education program link on September 15, 2009. The proposed Part C Early Intervention Services regulations will also be published for comment in the District of Columbia Register (DCR) as noted. If you need assistance with accessing the proposed regulations or policies please contact Desiree Brown, State Advisory Panel Coordinator and Community Outreach Specialist, at 202-741-0271 or by e-mail at [desiree.brown@dc.gov](mailto:desiree.brown@dc.gov).

**Individuals wishing to testify** at one of the hearings should contact Desiree Brown, State Advisory Panel Coordinator and Community Outreach Specialist, at 202-741-0271 or by e-mail at [desiree.brown@dc.gov](mailto:desiree.brown@dc.gov) no later than 5 PM on October 7, 2009. Each person presenting verbal testimony will be limited to five (5) minutes in an effort to allow all individuals an opportunity to be heard. Individuals representing an organization will be limited to seven (7) minutes total presentation time.

**Individuals who wish to submit their comments** as part of the official record, should send copies of written testimony and statements no later than 5 PM on Monday, October 19, 2009 to:

Desiree Brown  
Office of the State Superintendent of Education,  
Department of Special Education,  
51 N Street, NE  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
Washington, DC 20002  
or  
e-mail to [osse.publiccomment@dc.gov](mailto:osse.publiccomment@dc.gov)

**Individuals who do not register with the OSSE** prior to the hearing may testify based upon a first come-first-serve basis as time permits within the time frames announced for each meeting. On-site assistance with registration will be available prior to each hearing.

Individuals may request an accommodation for a physical disability or language access to participate in the public hearing by contacting Desiree Brown no later than 5 PM on October 1, 2009.